

BACKGROUND NOTE

Proposal for the establishment of an International Research and Training Center on Sediment, Isotope and Erosion Techniques in Ankara, Turkey

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Ankara

SUMMARY

The government of Turkey has proposed the establishment of a Regional Centre on Sediment, Isotope, and Erosion Techniques in Ankara under UNESCO's auspices that would serve the region, including Middle East and North Africa countries and those that by their proximity and/or climatic similarity would profit from it.

This proposal has been originated from the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works, and has been endorsed by the Turkish National Committee for the IHP.

As a contribution to the development of human resources for developing countries, and based on a background of increasing demands for professionals in the sedimentation, isotope and erosion fields, the establishment of an international training and research center on Sediment, Isotope and Erosion Techniques is planned under the auspices of UNESCO. The basic idea is to offer modern approaches and viewpoints, technical and non-technical aspects of sedimentation, isotope and erosion.

This proposal is formulated within the framework of the '*Adapting to the impacts of global changes in river basins and aquifer systems*' theme (focal areas 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4) of the 7th Implementation Period of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO (IHP- VII).

OBJECTIVES

The center will be an advisory and coordinating body that will steer the execution of the program of activities by means of universities, research centers and governmental agencies. The specific objectives of the center will be:

- To enhance postgraduate training for the engineers and technicians dealing with sediment, isotope and erosion related issues,
- To increase the multidisciplinary aspects of the contents of the post graduate courses,
- To enhance the research-components of the Post Graduate Course on Sediment Transport Technology,
- To encourage and assist computer aided learning products such as multi-media packages by helping in sediment transport, isotope hydrology and erosion techniques,
- To promote short courses, seminars, workshops on national, regional or inter-regional scales for specific themes (at all levels) along the themes of IHP-VII for policy and decision-makers, post-doctoral researchers and hydrology professors.
- To establish model curricula in hydraulics and isotope hydrology,
- To increase information-related activities in regional countries,
- To increase awareness in the minds of the general public and of young people of the key issues of water and environment in the 21th Century,

- To foster the human mobility for greater awareness of world water environment problems,
- To stimulate partnership between enterprises and educational institutions,
- To develop and extend appropriate techniques in sediment transport, isotope hydrology and erosion process.

ACTIVITIES TO BE REALISED

- Organization of training courses for trainers
- Development of pilot projects in arid and semi-arid rural areas
- Discussion in regional seminars
- Elaboration of policies
- Development of a popularized document

BASIC FUNCTIONS

- To promote scientific research
- To create and reinforce networks for the exchange of scientific, technical and policy information
- To develop and coordinate cooperative research activities (especially with IRTCES regional center in China)
- To organize knowledge and information transfer activities
- To provide technical consulting and advisory services in the region
- To produce technical publications and other media activities

SOME TENTATIVE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN IHP-VII PHASE (2008-2013)

- To support WWF-5 in Istanbul, Turkey (in 2009)
- To organize Post-Graduate Course In Sediment Transport Technology (in 2008, 2010, and 2012, Ankara, Turkey)
- To organize International Conference on Fluvial Hydraulics-River Flow 2008 (in 2008, Cesme, Izmir-Turkey)
- To organize National Symposium of Hydraulic Engineering (in 2009, 2011, and 2013, Izmir, Turkey)
- To organize National Symposium on Isotope Techniques in Hydrology (in 2008, 2011, and 2013, Izmir, Turkey)